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SJC Sophomore is "Realizing the Dream"

Renee Simon receives award recognizing first-generation college students

—by Maia Kingman—

Saint Joseph's College sophomore Renee Simon was recently honored at an Indianapolis banquet for being selected as a "Realizing the Dream" award recipient. Simon was one of 29 outstanding college students who were selected for the award, which recognizes the triumphs of first-generation college students in their first year of college.

"I was extremely surprised!" Simon says about being selected for the award. "It's nice to be recognized."

The award, made possible by a grant to the Independent College of Indiana from the Lily Endowment, is granted to Indiana high school graduates who demonstrate superior academic performance and exhibit leadership in campus or community activities during their freshman year at college. A \$500 contribution has been made to the general scholarship

fund of each of the 29 participating campuses in the names of the students being honored.

Simon, who graduated from Jac-Cen-Del High School in Osgood, explains that choosing to go to college is not an automatic decision for many high school students. "Only twenty percent of the students in my high school go to college. Hardly anyone I knew growing up went to college except for my teachers and a couple of aunts."

To celebrate the role models who have encouraged these students to attend college, the student honorees are asked to name an elementary or secondary teacher who most influenced them to attend college. Simon named Eugene Westerman, math and physics teacher at Jac-Cen-Del High School. "I had always wished there were some way to tell him how much I appreciated all he had done

for his students." Simon says about Westerman. "This was a nice way to do that."

Simon describes Westerman as a teacher who "really loves school and makes it a joy to learn." She says that his positive influence extended beyond the realm of study in math and physics. "He would tell stories about what college was like and would share life experiences. He gave good advice and was always humble. My being in college has a lot to do with him."

Simon and Westerman both attended the banquet, where they were addressed by Dr. Philip Faccenda, Chair of the Indiana Educational Facilities Authority and first generation college student himself. "It was a nice event," Simon says. "The students were surprised about being honored, the parents were proud, and the teachers grateful."



SOPHOMORE RENEE SIMON was one of 29 outstanding college students to receive the "Realizing the Dream" award.

'Dead week' not likely to become policy in near future

—by Heather Hagan—

Dead week is dead.

The proposal that was passed by the Student Senate last year failed to make it through the Academic Cabinet which almost unanimously voted against the proposition. However, it seems that many students have been under the impression that the proposal has gone into effect for this semester.

If passed, dead week would have taken place the week prior to final exams. During this week, professors would not have been permitted to assign papers greater than five pages in length. They

would also be prohibited from administering exams intended to take a full class period. According to the proposal submitted by Student Association President Phil Schroeder, the purpose of dead week is threefold. It is intended "to give the instructor a better chance to finish end-of-semester grading and evaluations, give the student the best possible chance to obtain a mastery of the courses in which he/she is enrolled, and give the student a better chance to seek out help in preparing for finals."

The proposal was first presented to the Academic Cabinet in November of 1999. The cabinet then discussed the

proposal in February and March of 2000. According to cabinet member Fr. Tim McFarland, there were a number of concerns among the faculty regarding the proposal. One concern was that this would not be the best and most productive way to utilize the last week of classes. McFarland stated, "Many professors like to use the last week before finals to review the material that has been covered in the course. Often, they choose to give tests as a way to prepare students for a comprehensive final exam." He added that in his own classes, he attempts to integrate as much of the material covered as possible before the final exam is administered.

Nikki Harris, the student representative on the Academic Cabinet at the time of the dead week discussion, stated that most professors on the cabinet did recognize that it is unfair to students to give new or "surprise" assignments immediately before finals.

"However," Harris added, "[the faculty] pointed out that most classes do have a syllabus with the assignments for the whole semester listed and students have prior warning and adequate time to work ahead."

Another concern raised by the faculty was the possibility that students would not use the extra time productively. "We were definitely concerned with the abuses that might arise," stated McFarland. According to Harris, one faculty member pointed out that many students do not use the free time they

already have to study, "so it would be pointless to give them more free time for that purpose."

Both Harris and McFarland agreed that it is not likely that a modified version of the dead week proposal will ever be considered in the future. While this may be disappointing to some, McFarland did point out that students can benefit from finals week stress.

"In many ways it can be a learning experience for the students," he commented. "The stress that accompanies finals week is really an education about life. It's preparation for the stress they will face later on in life."



THE FINALS SCENE. Whose desk has not looked like this during final exams? The proposed "dead week" was intended to relieve some of the stress and anxiety caused by exams. Photo by Heather Hagan

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Don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas spirit

—by Sharra Robertson—

Christmas is just around the corner and we all know what that means: snow, presents, lights, decorations, and tons of family gatherings complete with enough food to feed an army of starving refugees. And speaking of those refugees... I want to really talk about the Christmas spirit, which seems to be lacking in some places.

Christmas is celebrated in countries around the world and as the season draws nearer, more and more organizations are trying to play up to the spirit of giving by sending out the Angel Trees, the food donations and the bell ringers that collect money in the malls and Wal-Marts around the country. The United States is probably the wealthiest country in the world yet there are millions of families that will go hungry this Christmas day.

What is Christmas really about? This is a question that is asked every year by millions of people. Is it about the presents and Santa or is it about the birth of Jesus Christ? Everyone may have a different answer to this question. I personally believe that Christmas is definitely about the coming of the Christ Child and the spirit that he came in. Jesus came as a baby to a poor family that did not even have a house to live in.

What does this have to do with anything today, especially with this article that I am writing? Well, today millions of small children and babies are out in the street with no place to go. They will not be receiving gifts on Christmas morning; they may not even receive a warm meal on Christmas. For me, Christmas is not only about celebrating a birth; it is about taking care of the children in our own country that cannot take care of them.

Christmas is the perfect time to start taking care of these children, but it should not stop when the day is over. So, what can you, as college students do to help these children? Well, there is the Angel Tree in the back of the chapel. All they ask for is a gift that may not even cost five dollars. You don't even have to wrap the gift, just put it with the tag under the tree. You can find anything you may want to donate at Wal-Mart while you are picking up Christmas cards to send to your friends.

There is also the Covenant House Vigil, which is coming up on December 7. There will not only be a box there to donate food to local families so that they can eat on Christmas, but you can also get rid of any clothes that you don't wear anymore and help clothe the poor families in the community. There is also the Gallagher Charitable Society that you can be involved with, and numerous other ways of helping out your fellow Americans. By simply dropping spare change into the bucket by the bell ringer at Wal-Mart on your way out, you are helping someone survive a bit more comfortably for a few more days. If that doesn't get you in the holiday spirit, nothing will.

And now from the 'puma rumor' mill....

—by Mandy Meyers—

Not too long ago I heard a rumor circulating about condoms possibly being available for students on campus. When I heard this I was appalled that someone would actually want to encourage sex at St. Joe by providing students with free condoms.

I guess the reasons for this were somewhat understandable. Some believe that if students are going to be having sex on campus the school should at least make sure it's safe and that they're using a condom. Also another reason is that going into town and buying the condoms themselves would embarrass the students. My comment to this is that if you're too embarrassed to buy condoms then obviously you shouldn't be having sex. Why should the school provide free condoms to the student body? If you want to have safe sex, buy your own condoms.

It's a known fact that students are go-

Fines, fines, everywhere fines

—by Mandy Meyers—

Part of living in a dorm is respecting the rules and regulations that go along with residing there. However, one of the aspects is also paying dorm fines, which are the cost of damages to the public areas of a resident hall (in cases where a responsible individual can not be identified). This fee is to be distributed or divided equally among all the residents on the particular floor or wing.

I have a problem with this, because if the individual is not caught I have to pay. This happens in cases such as fire alarms being pulled, brooms missing, doors being propped open, or garbage cans being dumped over onto our floors. Why should I have to pay?

On our monthly statement, it says that if the individual is identified, the charges on your account will be reduced. Why only reduced? How about deleting the whole charge? Now that the person has been caught, make him or her pay the fine. I un-

derstand that it is sometimes hard to catch the person who damages the hall, but couldn't more emphasis be put into this?

Another question I have is how are the prices determined for the damage that is done? I remember my freshman year that a broom was missing from our bathroom. They charged our floor \$14 dollars to replace it. Isn't that a bit ridiculous? I could go to Family Dollar and buy one for half the price.

What I don't appreciate either is that most of the damage is done by people who don't even live on that floor. It's people from other dorms coming and destroying things. If you feel the need to steal hall phones or put cigarette butts in the water fountain, do it in your own dorm, not someone else's. Wouldn't you be a little upset if someone pulled the fire alarm in your dorm and left a \$500 fine for everyone to pay?

I guess the bottom line is that if you don't want outrageous fines, keep your hands to yourself and don't touch or damage things that do not belong to you, plain and simple.

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your turn

Are fines reasonable for the damage done to the dorms?

"It is very much a problem especially in our wonderful Gallagher Hall. The biggest complaint for us is the inconsistency in every fine. Plus, the last couple of fine lists that we got had multiple repeated fines (charging the same fine more than once). It's utterly ridiculous, Schneider has to go in to Ernest's office once a month to get anywhere from fifty to a couple hundred dollars removed. That shouldn't be our job, to correct someone who is obviously just milking the situation for more money."

Eric Seidel, Senior

"My belief is that dorm fines are a mandatory form of punishment and possibly even a deterrence, but in terms of amount they are outrageous! If Security or whoever administers the fines knows who committed the offense they should be fined and not the entire dorm. That's not fair to the innocent. And if that is how these fines are being administered, what's the point of them being used as a form of punishment?"

Beth Jerzyk, Junior

"I think that dorm fines at SJC are needed to keep people in line, but SJC's approach and billing standards are ridiculous. For example, a cigarette butt on the floor costs \$2.14. This is outrageous. Where does this money go? The reason we have dorm fines is because these incidents are an inconvenience to the janitorial crews. The janitor in Gallagher Hall makes a little over six dollars an hour. His wage is not affected by

the money taken in from dorm fines. If the janitors were to make a commission of the dorm fines given it would make more sense. It is the same reason a parking ticket is twenty dollars. Where does that money go? Not into the improvement of SJC. If people don't start complaining they will just keep on walking all over us.

Pat Shannon, Junior

"Dorms fines are never really outrageous, but if the girls on the floor didn't do the damage then I think they are. For example, the lobby phone. Eventually we will be fined because they have had to replace the handset so many times. Most of the time, when things are destroyed, the males are doing it. I have caught males destroying pieces of Justin, bulletin boards and so forth, yet we have the fine. That's what I have a problem with."

Bethany Pappalardo, Junior

"I think that the fines we receive seem pretty steep. I can understand that there is labor involved in replacing certain items but it would be nice to see the breakdown on how the administration comes up with the number they charge us instead of just putting a number next to an item. Also I would like to see the method they use in charging us for little things like popcorn on the floor and small things that don't seem like they would be very much."

Joe Rabensteine, Senior

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Editor's Gripe

—by Mandy Meyers—

After a semester of being the Opinion Editor I've come to a conclusion. People on this campus are afraid to voice their opinions. This page is intended as a forum for you to voice *your* opinion, not mine. But somehow this has become "The Mandy Meyers Page." The thing that bothers me is that I constantly hear people complaining about this or that or how they wish something was done differently on campus. Not once this semester has anyone emailed me his or her opinion (of their own free will, that is) about anything on this campus. When I do email people to ask them their opinion on an issue, it's like pulling teeth to get a response. But I would like to thank those few people who do email me back such as those featured in the "your turn" feature this time; I really do appreciate you taking the time to respond. If you're afraid to have your name published, it can always be kept anonymous. So either no one has an opinion on this campus or people just prefer to complain among themselves. I would ask if you think this is the case among students on campus, but I already know how many responses I would get back.

SJC appoints new V.P. of Business Affairs

by Maia Kingman

Saint Joseph's College President Albert Shannon has appointed Randy Freebourn Vice President for Business Affairs (VPBA) at Saint Joseph's College. The VPBA is responsible for all business affairs of the College, including annual budget preparation, controller operations, dining services, physical plant, college store, human resources and limited aspects of residence life. The VPBA also serves as Treasurer for the College and Board of Trustees.

Freebourn comes to Saint Joseph's College from Pennsylvania's Allegheny College, where he has worked for the last seven years in a number of positions, including Accounting Manager, Director of the Budget, and Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services.

Freebourn also has several years experience as a financial analyst for retail businesses and insurance companies. He and his wife Terri and their three children are relocating to Rensselaer within the next few

months.

Bill Shaut, the previous VPBA, left the position in order to relocate nearer to his son. Shannon has voiced his support for Shaut's decision and calls Shaut "a friend to the Saint Joseph's College community and to Rensselaer" who will be missed.

Shannon is confident that Freebourn is the right person to replace Shaut on the staff at Saint Joseph's. He indicated that the VPBA position at the College is "one of its most vital functions" and that Freebourn's previous experience makes him a "perfect fit" in the position of VPBA.

Over thirty applicants expressed interest in the position, and Shannon says that the review committee quickly targeted Freebourn as the most attractive candidate. "Randy was the unanimous first choice of the nine-member search committee," he says. "We know that he will fit into the College and the Rensselaer community easily. We look forward to our work together."

Students honored at second annual Leadership Banquet

by Nick Schafer

On the evening of Wednesday November 29th SJC honored its student leaders as part of the annual Leadership Banquet which was held in the ballroom. The attendants were honored for their work across campus and in the surrounding community.

Those in attendance were members of the Student Union Board, Student Association, Resident Assistants, Freshman Leaders, and the presidents of clubs on campus. The student leaders were individually honored and also

received a certificate of appreciation presented by the Student Association President, Phil Schroeder. The campus leaders were praised by Schroeder and then by Provost Dr. David Chattin.

The evening was enjoyed by all who attended. Senior Paul Kubon commented, "It was nice to be invited, and have what we do recognized."

The leadership banquet is an annual event and each year more and more SJC students are invited for their hard work and dedication with activities on campus and off.

Annual Christmas Dance is festive fun for all

by Nichole Workman

On December 2, the annual Christmas formal was held here at SJC. The dance, Under the Mistletoe, which was sponsored by the Justin and Halas governors and senators, turned out to be a great success. Girls arrived in beautiful dresses while the guys were seen in their best clothes.

Everyone seemed to have a really great time. "In my opinion it was a blast!" said freshman, Kristina Freeman. Students from every class were found at the dance.

"The dance was a little slow at first,"

commented Lyndi Cruikshank, "but later at night it really picked up and turned out to be an awesome time!"

The DJ's for the night were Mike Gomez and Kwadwo Gyamerah and without them the dance could not have been a success. According to freshman Megan Massengale, "They worked hard to get everyone involved and make sure we all had a great time."

A big thanks to everyone who contributed to help make this year's Christmas formal a memorable night!

Senior "party season" commences!

by Nick Schafer

As second semester is quickly coming to an end and the senior class is getting ready to embark on the journey of a lifetime, it is time for the annual senior activities to commence.

Thursday, November 30 kicked off the "Senior Party Season" with a night of bowling at Strike Zone. The second event of this leg of the celebrations took place on the evening of December 1. The chilly night of was celebrated with a bonfire at Lake Banet. The next event on the calen-

dar was the coveted "Champagne Breakfast" which took place on December 6. This event is a chance for the seniors to dress up and celebrate with their classmates. For those graduating early it may be the last time that they are with their class.

Senior class President Eric Schnieder commented, "It was cool to have all the seniors together. There will be other things going on next semester like the senior trip to 'the boats' and Senior Bowling Night Part II."

Ideas to relieve the stress of Finals Week

by Melissa Genova

SJC students are preparing for the most dreaded event of the semester - Finals Week. While many students try to cram everything into their head the weekend before, there are more productive ways of studying. There are also events going on around campus that can help to relieve the stress and form good study habits.

Steve Santo and the cafeteria staff sponsor the annual Cram Jam on December 9. It is a study session/breakfast in the cafeteria where students participate in activities and get a last chance to socialize with everyone before finals. "It's pretty fun," commented Amy Buckbee. "The professors cook and serve you breakfast and there are giveaways. It's an hour break from studying and you get to just hang out."

One of the more common stress relievers is studying with a friend. "Sarah Post and I usually study and make breaks. We take breaks in between, but do it together," said Blaire Henley.

Students often find alleviation in physical activity. Running, aerobics, and

lifting weights help students temporarily get their minds off of finals. "I try to find time to work out in between studying. It really helps," said Mary Bradshaw.

There are some students who don't have time for a break. The television is unplugged, the phone is off the hook, and coffee is brewing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "No one has time to take a break during finals week," said Amanda Kiral. "Everybody is studying. Taking a break is studying with a friend. It is not a fun week," said Amanda Kiral.

Another ways students can have fun while still studying, might include having a sleepover/study session. This would allow a couple of hours a night to a movie and popcorn in the dorm, going out for coffee and cracking the books there, running a mile every morning to help make the body become more alert and energetic, and having background music during a study session.

Finals week is notorious as "Hell Week," but students can always find ways to make their efforts more productive as well as fun.

Leadership Banquet 2000



PROVOST DAVID CHATTIN and SA President Phil Schroeder present Corey Kiger with his leadership award. Photo by Heather Hagan



SENIOR FROSYNI DOURAMACOS poses with her new friend. One person seated at each table won one of the Puma centerpieces. Photo by Heather Hagan

Just a Few Reminders...

It is time to evaluate your courses and professors for this semester. Your feedback is important because it will shape how the course is prepared for the next time it is offered. Please fill out this anonymous survey by logging on at: <http://cs.saintjoe.edu/EVAL/testlogin.phtml>.

Studying for finals? If so, there are study sessions in the Career Center on the 2nd floor Halleck Center. On Monday, Dec. 11 at 8AM, 2PM and 4PM. Then again on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 3PM, 5PM and 7PM. And lastly on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 8AM, 11AM, and 1PM. If you need a quiet getaway, this is the place. Snacks and help from an academic counselor will be available.

On Tuesday, December 12 from 6PM-9PM will be a massage clinic held by Resident Assistant Maura Giles and Director Christine Zerbst. It will be located on the second/third floor of Justin Hall and in Seifert Hall. Come take a break!

The Giving Tree will be collecting donations inside the chapel doors from December 2-17th. All items will be donated to the Crisis Center and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. For more info please contact Megan Taylor at ext. 8054.

Need help with your resume? Come to the Career Center on Tuesdays (December 5 & 12 and January 9 & 16) at 7PM. For more info please email Barb Robertson at barb@saintjoe.edu

“A comfortable place to grow...”

One junior's reflections on what SJC has given her

by Blaire Henley

I looked at so many colleges my senior year of high school. I knew I wanted a small, private college, but that was about all I had decided. My dad actually took some students to a college fair and somehow got sidetracked by the Saint Joe table. My dad immediately told the counselor that I would be a perfect fit for their school and that they should contact me. They did contact me and pretty soon I was filling out scholarship

applications. I'll be honest - receiving the Presidential Scholarship was definitely a deciding factor in where I went to school. However, I had scholarship offers elsewhere and ultimately I was sold by how friendly the chemistry faculty was and by all the students I met when I visited.

Once I got here I was so nervous. I have always been able to talk to people and make friends, but I was so incredibly intimidated once I actually arrived on campus. I felt like everyone was sizing each other up and I was sure I was going to make a horrible first impression. I had met Megan Taylor by working in the admissions office. She introduced me to Sara Post, another freshman who lived next door to her. Ironically, I knew lots of people from Sara's high school because they all went to my church camp. We started talking and the next thing I knew, we were inseparable. I remember coming back from Christmas break and being so excited. The first time I had moved to SJC I had been nervous, but now carting all my post-break luggage I knew I had found a friend who knew me better than any friends I'd had in high school.

Sara and I decided to room together and despite all warnings we have survived being roommates and become even better friends. I cheered last year and got to hang out with some of the craziest and most wonderful girls on campus. Mandy Meyers and I were cracking each other up all through cheer camp the week before school last year. Mandy has this distinct way of speaking, with dra-

matic pauses for effect and by the time Sara moved in that week I was already talking so much like Meyers that Sara couldn't keep a straight face!

Lori Carey was another one of my partners in crime during cheerleading practice and also the only other member of my class who is a chemistry major. Lori and I have struggled through every chemistry class together, from physics all the way to physical chemistry and somehow we still like being lab partners...despite the fact that our experiments never work.

I definitely feel like I made the right decision in coming to SJC, and not just because I have the best friends I've ever had here. I love it that I know my professors not just as teachers but as people, too. I like it that everyone here is basically friendly. I visited a friend at Purdue once and said hi to someone on the sidewalk and they just looked at me. It took me a minute to realize it's probably not the wisest thing to talk to everybody you see at a big school, but here I don't think anything of it.

As far as how SJC has helped me, I think it has given me a comfortable place to grow into the person I am today. I watched a tape of my high school graduation the other day and I tried to imagine what I was thinking and feeling, who was important to me then, and what I was looking forward to. I was sort of surprised by how much I had changed since that day not even three years ago. I think having such incredible opportunities here, a roommate who is willing to talk at 3 a.m. if I need it, and a group of friends who support me and push me has made the first part of my college experience incredible. I look forward to seeing what the next three semesters will hold.



JUNIOR BLAIRE HENLEY (right) poses with her roommate and best friend Sara Post. The two first met during their freshman year. Photo by Richard Rabenstine



by Don Shanahan

At the Movies with Don: Willis and Jackson ask sly questions in 'Unbreakable'

When performers have a breakout hit early in their career, the bar is set very high for everything they do afterwards. The public will always remember that breakout hit, will expect the same level of performance in their future work. Anyone who knows their music knows that there are more "one-hit wonders" than there are lasting stars. The same curse can strike in the movie genre.

Last year, director/writer M. Night Shyamalan shot to super-stardom in just his second movie when the surprising *The Sixth Sense* became the #12 grossing movie of all time and a Best Picture nominee at the Academy Awards. He has since become the man everyone wants to work with. Steven Spielberg has even asked him to write the next Indiana Jones movie. With the release of his follow-up, *Unbreakable*, re-teaming him with Bruce Willis, a lot of people are expecting lightning to strike twice. Everyone wants the same creepy thrills and surprise ending so much that they expect it. Such expectations shouldn't be made, though. It's unfair not to let the man do something different.

Because of that, there are two ways to approach *Unbreakable*. You can wrongly try and compare it to *The Sixth Sense*, or look at it from a fresh prospective entirely. I'll tell you right off the bat, right here, that other than Willis being in it, *Unbreakable* is very different from *The Sixth Sense*. Both are slow, evolving mysteries, but where *The Sixth Sense* relies on the supernatural, *Unbreakable* is a completely human story

in a comic book-like mold.

Bruce Willis is David Dunn, a distant husband from his wife (Robin Wright Penn of *Forrest Gump*), but close to his son Jeremy (Spencer Treat Clark). He works a lowly stadium security job at his old college where he used to be a big football star before a car accident ended his career. Nobody remembers him now, because he is just that—a nobody. Just as in the famous preview, in a hideous accident, the train he is riding home from New York to Philadelphia derails killing all of the 200+ passengers aboard but him. Not only does he survive, but he walks away uninjured. When he thinks about it, David cannot remember a day in his life when he was ever hurt or sick.

David is dazed by this turn of events and asks himself, "Why me?" An eccentric comic book collector, Elijah Price (the menacing Samuel L. Jackson), thinks he might know that answer and pursues David. Unlike David, Elijah is an injury case of odd proportions. Through a troubled childhood and bitter life, he has broken 54 bones as his body constantly betrays him. His one obsession is the human and inhuman traits of comic book characters. He seems himself, a broken man. He is at one end of the spectrum and David, a constantly if not infinitely healthy man, is connected to him on the opposite end of the spectrum.

This is just the start to the intriguing mystery of just why David and Elijah could be opposites and something more than ordinary. Like any good mystery, there are revelations and twists along the way that must be kept secret in this review. Those looking for that same jaw-dropping climax twist you got in *The Sixth Sense*

will get another one, so be prepared to have your head spun.

Like I said before, it is unfair to compare *Unbreakable* to *The Sixth Sense* because of their differences. Personally, I couldn't get into the whole ghost thing of *The Sixth Sense*. I find *Unbreakable* to be a much smarter and more interesting movie. The big questions and secrets that spark your curiosity are with you throughout the whole movie until the end. The movie grabs your attention immediately and keeps your focus even through the slow unraveling of plot details.

The characters are excellent as well, especially Samuel L. Jackson. Jackson's Elijah is an interesting blend of intelligence, anger, and eccentricity. While the story follows Dunn's growth from nobody to somebody, Elijah's questions and words fuel the mystery and story. Without him, *Unbreakable* couldn't be possible.

Most of the credit to this success has to go to Shyamalan. He has an excellent eye for blending family into his tales of mystery, for writing great twists, and for great visual storytelling. Just as Toni Collette played the tough stalwart mother in *The Sixth Sense*, Robin Wright Penn is the wife who wants things to be better and Spencer Treat Clark is the son who never leaves David's side. The movie and the story itself look great too. *Unbreakable* is smoothly shot with different angles and settings. You can feel the rhythms of the train and beads of rain that fall. In regard to story, *Unbreakable* is, by far, the smartest movie of the year and one of the most interesting. Be surprised by this great mystery tale, but don't be surprised if you see this one show up at awards time this winter.

Monon Theater offers charming, convenient alternative

by Don Shanahan

Not many small towns in America can claim that they have their own movie theater. If not the case, most people are then forced to drive great distances to catch a movie. Rensselaer kind of falls into this category. If you want a multiplex of choices, you usually have to trek to Merrillville to the north or Lafayette to the south. However, what most people don't know is that there is a quaint little theater a quick fifteen to twenty minutes away that only costs a thrifty three dollars per person. Where is this deal? Right down the road in Monon, Indiana.

Originally opened for movies and local stage plays in 1938, the Monon Theater was and still is the only theater in the immediate area. After a long closing and a time on the sale block through the seventies and eighties, the theater was re-opened in 1992 by Gerri and Lexi Baer, the current owners. The Baers previously managed the Twin Lakes Theater in Monticello from 1987-1992 and also one in Crawfordsville before that. For \$65,000, the entire building became theirs' to own.

Since then, the Baers have made the place very special. Anyone who has ever been there (like myself on several occasions) can attest to that statement from the first step in the door. What could have been just a small and boring entrance foyer has been transformed into a bright and magical movie memorabilia paradise.

The lobby is peppered with old posters, toys, costumes, and other trinkets of movies from past and present. It is all "just the tip of the iceberg," according to Lexi Baer, of all of the memorabilia that she has collected over the years. In many cases, the lobby is theme-decorated to the movie of the moment. When *Saving Private Ryan* was showing, much of Gary's WWII memorabilia made its way into the decoration. During *Titanic*, the entire lobby got an early 1900's time feel with costumes and other artifacts. It is truly a beautiful piece of work every time and a sight to see beyond this

explanation!

Most of the movies that come to the Monon Theater are geared towards families and contain good positive lessons, but they are always current. In fact, the unofficial name you will hear on their telephone information message is the "Monon Family Theater." Some of the Baer favorites from over the years include *Forrest Gump*, *Field of Dreams*, and *Titanic*. While Disney and kid movies are the first choice, the Baers are not afraid to bring in well-received dramas like *Saving Private Ryan* or *Remember the Titans* or good-hearted romances like *Runaway Bride* or *What Dreams May Come*.

Although, it is a small theater it remains a tough job, according to the Baers. "It's a whole other world from the big chain theaters," states Lexi, "Where they might have selection, we have a much better and much safer environment that everyone can afford and enjoy." For them, the hardest part is the schedule. The theater is open seven nights a week all year round and they are the only ones that work. According to Lexi, it is all worth it. "To see the looks on the kids' faces when they come out of a good movie with their family or see the lobby is priceless. The home atmosphere is great for that."

Being the closest theater to SJC, the Monon Theater has gained quite a Puma following among many professors and students, according to the Baers. While Fred Berger, Sally Nesselrode, and Dave Balza were named as faculty regulars, the Egan family takes the cake. "It is by far, my favorite place for a movie," states Dr. John Egan. In addition to Dr. John and his wife



THE LOBBY of the Monon Theater is decorated with movie memorabilia past and present. Photo by Don Shanahan

Anne-Marie of the music department, their immediate family (as many as 27 in the area) comes along on many occasions.

Getting to the Monon Theater from SJC is very simple. First, take U.S. 231 (College Avenue) south out of town for five miles until the flashing yellow intersection at State Road 16. Turn left onto 16 and take it east about fourteen miles when you reach U.S. 421 and the town of Monon. At the main stop sign at 421, turn right to go into town and you cannot miss the theater marquee after that.

As aforementioned, the price of admission is only three dollars and the nightly showtime is 6:30pm Rensselaer time. *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* is playing there until mid-December. Some of the upcoming movies that the Baers have penciled in are Disney's *The Emperor's New Groove*, *Vertical Limit*, *Rugrats in Paris*, and *Cast Away*. The telephone number to call for showing times is (219)-253-7030.

SJC to participate in international candlelight vigil

by Maia Kingman

Thursday, December 7 at 4:30pm in the Saint Joseph's College Chapel, Rensselaer will join 21 other major cities in North and Central America in a simultaneous candlelight vigil for homeless children. Saint Joseph's College has organized the local vigil, which is part of a larger Covenant House event.

This is the tenth year that the Covenant House has sponsored an international vigil, and this is the 6th year that Saint Joseph's College has participated in the event.



photo by Heather Hagan

Other cities participating this year are Anchorage, Los Angeles, Oakland, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Detroit, New York City, New Orleans, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Newark, Philadelphia, Houston, Saint Louis, Washington D.C., Toronto, Vancouver, Guatemala City, Tegucigalpa, Managua, and Mexico City.

Because this year marks the tenth anniversary of the vigil, the Covenant House has decided to use the vigil as a way to present a progress report concerning children's rights. In most of the cities participating, speakers will address the progress that has been made in ensuring children's rights and will highlight the work that remains to be done.

Brother Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S., Director of Saint Joseph's College's C.P.P.S. community, has played an active role in organizing the Rensselaer vigil for the last six years. Hemm explains that in Northwest Indiana, "we have more children who would be labeled 'at-risk' than who are homeless." Because the troubles at-risk children face are often not immediately apparent, Hemm says, the Saint Joseph's College group felt that an "educational" vigil would best serve the Northwest Indiana area. "We're not about making big legislative changes," says Hemm. "We want to draw awareness to the plight of homeless and at-risk kids. Awareness is the critical thing."

The Rensselaer vigil will include music by the Saint Joseph's College Choir; a keynote address by Karen Greaney, an SJC student currently researching the problems that face at-risk kids locally; a presentation of the Covenant House's Children's Bill of Rights by Saint Augustine, Rensselaer Central Middle School, and Saint Joseph's College students; and speakers who represent local agencies who safeguard children's rights, including Christian Haven, the Gallagher Charitable Society,

The Facts on Homelessness

- The average age of a homeless person today is nine.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness.
- More than 3/4 of homeless families are single parent families headed by women.
- 1/4 of all homeless people work, but their wages are too low for them to afford permanent housing.
- Of the homeless population in America...
 - 56% are African-American
 - 27% are Anglo
 - 13% are Latino
 - 3% are Native American
 - 1% are Asian

and the Boy's and Girl's Club. Donations of food and clothing will also be collected at the College Chapel for local families in need.

Covenant House is the largest privately funded childcare agency in the United States. Last year, it provided residential and non-residential services to nearly 61,000 youth. The Covenant House Nineline (1-800-999-9999) received over 58,000 crisis calls from youngsters all over the country who needed immediate help and had nowhere else to turn.



BASKETBALL

Three pointers surge Balza's men to 5-2 start

by Anthony Cavaiani
and Don Shanahan

The SJC Men's Basketball team has gotten off to a surprisingly quick and solid start so far this season. The Pumas are off to an outstanding 5-2 start with a team with only four returnees from last year's 8-18 squad. A great many freshman and new transfers are being presented with responsibility and playing time by head coach Dave Balza and his assistants Ken Carrillo and Chris Highfield.

The Pumas started out 2-1 winning the consolation championship for fifth place in the loaded field of the 4th Annual Disney Division II Tip-Off Classic. The Disney classic is a very prestigious tournament hosted by the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida. The 2000 field was partially comprised with three ranked teams, Southwest State, Wayne State (NE), and fellow GLVC team Northern Kentucky and four pre-season All-Americans. The tournament was something head coach Dave Balza has been pining for in his two-year tenure at SJC. 2000 turned out to be the lucky year the Pumas made the field.

Welcoming the Pumas after their plane ride in the first round was #12 Southwest State. In their first game of the season and first game as a team together, the Pumas fell 100-85 to enter the consolation bracket after the first round. Returning sophomore guard Hodges Smith did put up a career high 25 points in the defeat. The team regrouped in the Florida sun to take the next two games. The Pumas handily defeated Pittsburg State 94-71 behind junior forward Brent Mason's 21 points. In the consolation championship for fifth place, the Pumas pulled out a nail-biting 67-65 win over Armstrong Atlantic State. Smith continued his scoring surge with a team-high 18 points and the team's lone senior, Brandon Yates, made 11 of 11 free throw attempts down the stretch.

GLVC rival Northern Kentucky ended up winning the tournament, while Hodges Smith made the All-Tournament team. The Chicago native averaged 18.7 points over the tournament weekend. Smith's percentages were equally blistering. He shot a stellar 54% from the field, 46% from behind the arc, and 82% from the free-throw line. Also during the Florida trip, some career milestones were attained. Yates and Mason both passed the 700 career point plateau. Mason also crossed into the 300 rebound club with his 18 rebounds over the Classic.

The Pumas followed up the successful Florida trip with wins in their first two home games, both of special causes. The Nov. 25 contest was the Third Annual "Game of Thanks" where admission price to the Richard F. Sharf Alumni Fieldhouse was a canned food good contributed to the



BRANDON YATES, the lone senior on the men's basketball team is one of three Pumas averaging double figures in points over the course of the team's hot 5-2 start. Photo courtesy of Joe Danahey.

Good Samaritan Pantry of Rensselaer. There was also a 50/50 split the pot raffle for Rensselaer Ministerial Society. The Nov. 27 game was the "3-Point Attack Against Cancer Night" sponsored by Charlie Roberts Chevrolet-Buick. \$10 was donated for every three-point basket the Pumas made that Monday to the American Cancer Society.

In the first home contest Nov. 25, the Pumas scored a 95-84 triumph over the Crimson Wave of Calumet State where records were broken. Junior Brent Mason led the scoring as he poured in a career high 40 points as well as defeating the old school record held by Josh Hauser for most 3-pointers made in a game with eight made. Hauser held the previous record with five back in the 1993-94 season. Those eight three's also moved Brent to second place on the all-time SJC three-point leaders with 107. Senior Brandon Yates also tossed in 14 points and freshman Marvin Smith chipped in 13 as well.

Despite playing a mediocre first half Monday night at Alumni Fieldhouse, the Saint Joseph's College Men's Basketball team won their fourth straight game with an 81-71 triumph over the Ferris State Bulldogs in a come-from-behind contest. The Bulldogs controlled much of the first half by forcing bad SJC shots and controlling the ball and running out on fast breaks when given the chance. However, the second half was a different story as the Pumas used a 16-4 run to bust the game open at the start of the second half.

FSU came right out of the gates and scored the first five points of the game. The Pumas then calmed down and some timely three-pointers by sophomore guard Hodges Smith and junior forward Brent Mason helped SJC keep a handle on the game. However, junior center

Adam Anderson caused havoc inside and out for the Bulldogs as he had 5 first half points 6 rebounds and freshman guard Marcus Wallace had 8 points and 5 assists. But the 3-point shooting of Smith (11 points in the first half) and Mason (6 points in first half) and the awareness of point guard Marlin Murphy had SJC only down four at the half, 36-32.

After intermission, SJC rushed out to a 5-0 jump start in the first minutes of the half. The quick run was fueled when Smith drained a three and senior forward Brandon Yates (17 points) dunked one home off a steal by Murphy. After an FSU timeout, the Pumas still didn't let up. SJC put together that aforementioned 16-4 run within the first five minutes of the second half. Smith and Mason both had six points in the spurt, Yates had 2, and Murphy added a pair of free-throws to put the Pumas up by six with just over 15 minutes to play.

The Bulldogs again climbed their way back into it as Anderson threw in 14 points in the second half alone and FSU would tie it at 70 with just over two minutes left. After a timeout from Coach Balza, the Pumas came out and built their lead up to ten in the final min-

utes, highlighted by a Smith to Yates alley-oop slam to put SJC up by eight.

"We hung in there tonight against a good team and put together a few runs that helped us. I would say that that was the difference," said Balza, referring to the impressive resume that the Bulldogs brought into the game. They had beaten Oakland University, the top team in the MCC (Mid-Continent Conference, Division I), who had beaten Michigan on the opening night of the season.

"This portrays the type of team we have this year," said Smith, who finished with 21 points on the night, "when we grind it out and stick with it we know we'll be successful."

Anderson's 19 points and 9 rebounds led the Bulldogs (1-2). Also leading the way for SJC was Mason with 22, 18 of which came off 3-pointers and Yates with 17.

More records and milestones were set with the Ferris State victory. As a team, SJC hit a school record 13 total three-pointers, behind Mason's six and Smith's five. Those 13 threes all went towards the American Cancer Society on the "3-Point Against Cancer Night." Mason's 22 points, combined with the 40 points two nights before, rose him to the 800-career point plateau as well.

After the great start at home, the men began conference play as they took a two game road trip to Southern Indiana University-Edwardsville and Southern Indi-

ana, the #3 ranked team in the nation. On Thursday, the Pumas decisively defeated SIUE 77-65 as Mason had 28 points, Smith tossed in 19, and O'Neal added 12. The quick contest and conference opener stretched the men's winning streak to five games.

However, that five game winning streak would come to a halt as #3 Southern Indiana stopped SJC 80-71. Sophomore Ram-

al Hunter had a season-high 19 points and Yates had 15 to lead the Pumas (5-2, 1-1 GLVC) in a close game. For a young team, the Pumas had some legitimate chances in the close game to knock off the #3 team in the nation in the eight-point loss.

The Puma men's basketball team continue to make their way through the very tough GLVC conference through the month of December. Their next game will be at home when they host the IPFW Mastodons on

Saturday, December 9 at 3:30pm.



JUNIOR FORWARD BRENT MASON set the school record for three-pointers in a game with eight versus Calumet College on Nov. 25. Photo courtesy of Joe Danahey

SEASON BEGINS

Young Lady Pumas start sluggish and winless on the road

—by Don Shanahan—

If any Saint Joseph's College sports team feels like they have to start from scratch, it's the Lady Puma basketball team under head basketball coach Lynn Plett in his seventh season. Due to graduation this past spring, the Pumas lost two of SJC's career scoring leaders, Tamara Bumpers and all-time scoring leader Angie Hupfer. They also lost their floor general guard Dawn Harvey, their starting center and shot-blocker Jill Masters, in addition to bench support from Teri Forsyth and Mo Claridge. The team has only eight returnees, led by the lone senior on the squad, Laura Mullikin. Mullikin was the third leading scorer on last year's team with a 7.2 ppg average.

Through the beginning of the season, Plett and his assistants Elaine Russell, in her third season, and returning alum Dawn Harvey have worked hard at practice to find players who can step up into take-charge starting roles. Despite a disappointing 0-6 start, they are getting some flashes of brilliance from a great many younger players. Frankfort, Indiana freshman Heather Allen has been the brightest hooper, averaging double-double figures in points and rebounds.

The women started the season in the annual GLVC-GLIAC Classic at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan. Their first game of the classic and first game of the season was a nailbiting thriller where the Pumas fell in the last five seconds of the game to Northwood 75-74. Whitney Avery came out of the gate with a career high 21 points in a game Coach Plett surely wanted to start his season off on the right foot. Behind Avery, Heather Allen



5'4" GUARDS KORI Rentas and Lisa Moncrief find themselves a littler higher off the ground then they are used to. The Lady Pumas have their home opener on Dec. 9. Photo courtesy of the SJC Women's Basketball website

posted an astonishing 17 points and 14 rebounds. In the second game of the Classic, the Pumas lost 79-56 to the Cardinals of Saginaw Valley State. Allen came through in the loss with her second double-double game in a row (14 points, 12 rebounds). In support, freshman Erin Sampsel handed out 15 assists over the two-game set.

More time on the road didn't help the team's luck when they traveled to Kirksville, Missouri to play Truman State University and Rockhurst University. The Lady Pumas first fell decisively to the Truman State Bulldogs 99-66, even with a 14-point effort from Whitney Avery. Things were closer, but still far two days later in a 75-58 loss to Rockhurst. In that game, Sampsel posted a season-high 19 points while Allen chipped in 16.

In the final games of this report, the Lady Pumas opened their difficult GLVC season on the road with losses to SIUE and Southern Indiana. In frustrating fashion, the team lost first to SIUE 84-37 where the team leader was Erin Sampsel's ten points. The offense bounced back some against Southern Indiana as Heather Allen cracked 20 points while junior transfer Courtney Weng contributed 12 of her own along with 11 points each from freshman Michelle Wegner and junior Kori Rentas. Such a spurt for 71 points was not enough to keep up with the 104 that Southern Indiana scored.

At 0-6, the Lady Pumas must continue their demanding GLVC season this weekend in their home opener. Lynn Plett and his team hosts IPFW at 1:00pm Saturday December 9th at the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse. Hopefully, the friendly confines will turn things around for the Lady Pumas.

PUMA FOOTBALL BANQUET AWARD WINNERS

The annual football banquet was held on the afternoon of Saturday, December 2nd. The Class of 2001 seniors were honored:

Adam Reissner
Matt Wagner
Don Shanahan
Gil Murillo
Darius Barker
Tim Flagg
Andy Elsener
Varon Cantrell
Desmond Fletcher
Ricky McCray
Todd Roberts

In addition to sending off those fine seniors, the year end awards voted by the coaches and the players were given.

The recipients were:

Most Valuable Player Offense
Desmond Fletcher
Most Valuable Player Defense
Tim Flagg
Most Valuable Special Teams
Matt Wagner
Most Improved Player
Rico Epps
George Halas Leadership Award
Varon Cantrell
David Rogers Newcomer of the Year
Marty Starks
Brain Piccolo Memorial Dedication Award
Ryan Kardash
Diane Jennings Friend of the Program
Prof. Teresa Massoels

Sports Editorial

THE INSIDE CORNER:

Sooner or later, an NCAA football tournament is needed

—by Erik Steffen—

Sooner or later, a NCAA Football tournament is needed

The BCS was created a few years ago to prevent a split poll, that is to say, so we would actually have a national championship game, number 1 versus number 2, the winner being crowned national champion.

Low and behold, we are 3 years into this new system and what are we faced with? An inevitable split poll. The hurricanes of Miami are playing the best football in the country right now and are ranked number 3. They beat Florida State, what has the same record, but because their strength of schedule was minutely higher than Miami's, they are

ranked higher at number two.

Oklahoma, whose strength of schedule doesn't even compare to that of either Miami's or Florida State, is number 1, resting happily undefeated, over what were mostly mediocre teams.

Miami is getting the short end of this deal. They should be at least number two. The only poll in America that has it right, by quality of teams, is the New York Times poll, which when I saw it last has Miami number 1, Florida State number 2 and Oklahoma number 3.

The real national championship game should be Miami vs. Florida State. Instead we're going to see Florida State destroy Oklahoma in a bowl game that won't even be funny, and likewise a Miami romp over Florida.

What does all this mean? A split poll. The BCS was created to prevent this, but because of the BCS we have it. If we had the old system, it would be at least Miami vs. Oklahoma, which is fairer than FSU vs. Oklahoma, since Miami beat FSU.

What should really happen is a 16-team tournament. Some teams were done two weeks ago, and they have 5, sometimes 6, weeks off until their bowl games. Bowl games are sloppy until the second half anyways, simply because the teams haven't played in a month.

They could set it up like March Madness, the top 16 teams in the country as denoted by record and strength of schedule. It is possible that some of the lower seeded teams would be faced with some controversy similar to that of Miami and FSU right now, but we would be fooling with lower rated teams,

not teams who would in all likelihood win it all.

Between the semis and the finals the teams could have two weeks off, so the players would be rested, and we could have a true national champion.

Instead, we have a month off from football where we were going to see the same speculation over and over. We're going to hear that Miami is the best over and over, and how Oklahoma is going to be beat with in an inch of their lives, only for us to find on January first and second that all this was true.

Rather anti-climactic for what has been an awfully exciting season. You know who's really to blame, don't you? Kansas State—but that's another story.

Looking for a movie to go along with those chestnuts roasting over the open fire? Here are some Quick Picks for the essential Christmas movies

Puma Entertainment Quick Picks Christmas Special

Playing in Theaters Now

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)- Jim Carrey's outstanding transformation makes this live-action retelling a great holiday show. Check this one out down in Monon for a cool three bucks.

The Absolute Classics

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

White Christmas (1954)

A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

A Christmas Story (1983)

Modern Holiday Choices

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)- This Chevy Chase blunder-filled romp will reach that classic level with age.

Scrooged (1988)- Bill Murray is a rich fat cat who learns some lessons in a modernization of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

The Santa Clause (1994)- Tim Allen becomes the new Santa Claus when he dons the red jacket after old St. Nick falls off his roof on Christmas Eve.

Jingle All the Way (1996)- Arnold Schwarzenegger is in the hot for the hottest toy of the moment for his son

Jack Frost (1998)- A very weak melodrama where a on-again-off-again travelling father (Michael Keaton) gets re-



incarnated as a snowman for his son.

Something of a Different Taste

Die Hard 1 and 2 (1988, 1990)- These Bruce Willis action classics has his John McClane cop go it alone against hordes of terrorists, first at a LA skyscraper and then at a D.C. airport, on Christmas Eve each time.

Home Alone 1 and 2 (1990, 1992)- Maculley Culkin defends his house when his parent forget him for Christmas against two idiot burglars (Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern).

The Poseidon Adventure (1972)- In one of the original Hollywood disaster mov-

ies, a Christmas luxury cruise goes bad when the ship capsizes upside-down in a storm. Gene Hackman stars.

Turbulence (1997)- Preposterously bad action movie of a Christmas Eve plane flight of prisoners that gets hijacked. Flight attendant Lauren Holly must outwit con-man Ray Liotta.

Batman Returns (1992)- Over a Gotham Christmas season, Batman battles the corrupt Penguin and the slinky Catwoman.

Reindeer Games (2000)- Ben Affleck gets out of jail only to get wrongly mixed up in a Christmas Eve heist where five Santas try and knock off a casino. Gary Sinese and Charlize Theron costar.

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)- Holidays collide when Lord Halloween tries to take over Christmas in this claymation fantasy from director Tim Burton.

...?Did You Know?...

The Origin of Christmas Trees

It is told that Saint Boniface, a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, England who established Christian churches in France and Germany in the 7th Century, one day came upon a group of pagans gathered around a big oak tree about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor. To stop the sacrifice and save the child's life Boniface felled the tree with one mighty blow of his fist. In its place grew a small fir tree. The saint told the pagan worshippers that the tiny fir was the Tree of Life and stood for the eternal life of Christ.



It is also told that Saint Boniface used the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The first reference of a fir tree decorated for Xmas is at Riga in Latvia in 1510. In 1521, the Princess Hélène de Mecklembourg introduced the Xmas tree to Paris after marrying the Duke of Orleans. There also is a printed reference to Xmas trees in Germany, dated 1531. Another famous reference, in 1601, is about a visitor to Strasbourg, Germany (now part of France) who noticed a family decorating a tree with "wafers and golden sugar-twists (barley sugar) and paper flowers of all colours."

The Xmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers and by Hessian mercenaries paid to fight in the Revolutionary War. In 1804, US soldiers stationed at Fort Dearborn (Chicago)

hailed trees from surrounding woods to their barracks.

Britain was introduced to the Xmas tree in 1841, when Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince

Albert brought a Xmas tree to Windsor Castle for the Royal family. The custom of the Xmas tree spread quickly to the middle class, to working people, and throughout the colonies (where the Empire's flag would sometimes top the tree).

Trees were decorated with apples, cakes and candies for many centuries. Martin Luther was the first to use candles on trees in the late 16th Century. In 1842, Charles Minnegrode introduced the custom of decorating trees to the US in Williamsburg, Virginia. In the 1850s, German company Lauscha, based in Thuringia, began to produce shaped glass bead garlands for Xmas trees. They also introduced the Rauschgoldengel, the 'Tingled-angel', dressed in pure gilded tin. The glass ornaments reached Britain in the 1870s, and North America around 1880.

In 1882, ornaments were complimented by electric Xmas lights. Edward Johnson, a colleague of Thomas Edison, lit a Xmas tree with a string of 80 small electric light bulbs which he had made himself. By 1890, the Xmas light strings were mass-produced. By 1900, stores put up large illuminated trees to lure the customers.

December Holidays

-
- 1 World AIDS Day
- 4 International Hug Day
- 5 Play Hooky From Work And Go Shopping
- 6 Bad Hair Day
- 7 Hang A Wreath Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 13 Take Your Ass For A Walk Day
- 14 Opposites Attract Day
- 15 Underdog Day
- 17-23 Tell Someone They Are Doing A Good Job Week
- 18 Flake Appreciation Day
- 19 Build A Snowman Day
- 21 Winter Begins
- 22 Capricorn
- 22 Chanukah
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanzaa
- 26 Boxing Day
- 29 Ice Skating Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

Word Play

aq'ui•line, adj. - pertaining to or suggesting eagles.

be•queath, v.t. - transfer to heirs.

nonce, n. - time being.

pleth'o•ra, n. - profuseness.

tur'pi•tude, n. - violence.

whit'low, n. - inflammation of a finger or a toe.

The Christmas Roast

You used to call me Grinch, and say I was a scrooge.

You would call me all those names, your friends would join in too.

They thought your words were funny, and I know your words weren't clean.

But you shouted them anyway, your were just obscene.

Well, maybe I was a little bad, like when I ate your goldfish.

But was I bad enough that I'd get coal, and you'd still get your wish?

This year I will seek revenge, you are in my sights.

15 years of coal still burnable, your stocking should burn quite bright.

So when you fall asleep tonight, and everything is great,

I'll be lurking in the shadows, with coal stacked on Santa's cookie plate.

Be afraid, but don't give me away, my master plan is grand.

From here on out I'll be known as "The worst in all the land."

But do not cry, I'll leave some gifts, not all will I take,

I'll leave the socks, the pet rock, and that yummy fruitcake.

Now your Christmas should be ruined, hopefully you'll sleep in fear

Too bad I'm all talk,

and you could you make it Kingsford Charcoal this year?

————— Nate Bowers

Monon Theater now Showing

"The Grinch"

How the Grinch stole Christmas

Starring Jim Carrey

RENSSELAER TIMES

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 6:30 & 8:30

SUNDAY 3:30 & 6:30

MONDAY-THURSDAY 6:30